Claims

We claim:

1. A system for conducting secure transactions comprising:

   a processor means in communication with a network;

5 a goods and/or services provider in communication with the network;

   a token reader in communication with the processing means;

   a token having transaction account information stored thereon wherein said token is read by the token reader when conducting a transaction with the goods and/or services provider via the network.

10 2. The system of claim 1 wherein said network is the internet.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein said processing means is a computer.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein said processing means is a telephone.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein said processing means is a personal digital assistant.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein said token comprises an integrated microchip for

15 storing information thereon.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein said token reader reads said transaction account information from said token.

8 The system of claim 7 wherein said token reader reads said information from said token by scanning said token.

20 9. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

   an authorization system in communication with the network for authenticating the transaction with the goods and/or services provider.

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10. The system of claim 1 wherein said goods and/or services provider has a web-site for conducting transactions via the network.

11. The system of claim 1 wherein said processing means comprises an identifier that indicates to the goods and/or services provider whether the processing means is enabled to

5   conduct transactions with a token reader.

12. A method of conducting secure transactions comprising the steps of:

     providing a customer having a processor means in communication with a network and further in communication with a token reader;

     providing a goods and/or services provider in communication with the network;

10   the customer contacting said goods and/or services provider with the processor means via the network and selecting a good and/or service to purchase, said customer utilizing a token for the purchase of said good and/or service;

     the goods and/or services provider communicating with a token authenticator via the network for enabling an authentication of the customer's token;

15   the processor means obtaining transaction account information from said token with said token reader;

     the processor means passing said transaction account information to said token authenticator via the network for authenticating said token; and

     the token authenticator approving the transaction if the token authenticator

20   authenticates the token.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said network is the internet.

14. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of:

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the goods and/or services provider detecting whether the processor means is able to support a transaction using a token reader after the customer selects a good and/or service for purchase from the goods and/or services provider.

15. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of:

the goods and/or services provider offering to said customer an option of conducting the transaction with the token reader after the customer selects a good and/or service for purchase from the goods and/or services provider.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of:

the customer selecting the option to conduct said transaction with the token reader.

17. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of:

the goods and/or services provider passing transaction details to both said token authenticator and said processor means via the network after the customer selects a good and/or service for purchase from the goods and/or services provider.

18. The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of:

the processor means communicating with said token authenticator for authenticating the transaction by passing the transaction details to said token authenticator after the goods and/or services provider passes said transaction details to said processor means.

19. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of:

the goods and/or services provider invoking software for utilizing said token reader in communication with said processor means via the network after the customer selects a good and/or service for purchase from the goods and/or services provider..

20. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of:

the processor means obtaining the transaction account information by scanning the token with the token reader.

21. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of:

communicating to said customer that the transaction is processing after the processor means passes said transaction account information to said token authenticator.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein said token authenticator communicates to said customer that the transaction is processing.

23. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of:

the token authenticator communicating to the goods and/or services provider via the network whether the transaction is approved or not.

24. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of:

communicating to the customer that the transaction is complete via the network after the token authenticator approves or disapproves said transaction.

25. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of:

the token authenticator redirecting the customer back to the goods and/or services provider on the network.

26. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of:

the customer obtaining the results of whether the transaction is approved via a communication from the goods and/or services provider on the network.

27. The method of claim 12 wherein said token reader is capable of scanning an intelligent token.

28. The method of claim 12 wherein said token reader is capable of scanning a transaction card.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein said transaction card is a smart card.

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